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Dr. Darby in America. Dr. William Evans Darby, Secretary of the Peace Society, London, has been spending several weeks in this country. He arrived in Boston on the 25th of August with the International Law Association delegates from Great Britain, of which he was one. He spent three days at the Peace Convention of the Universal Peace Union at Mystic, Conn., where he gave several addresses, and preached twice on Sunday. From Mystic he went to Buffalo and attended the meetings of the American Bar Association (whose "clever jingoism" was rather too much for a pacific Englishman) and of the International Law Association, of whose Council of direction he is a member. From Buffalo he went to Philadelphia, where he spent a week visiting the peace workers, addressing meetings, preaching, etc.; then a day or two was spent in Toronto on business. Dr. Darby went thence to New York for the Sabbath, September 24, and then came by Mystic to Boston for a few days at the International Congregational Council, to which he was a delegate. He set sail for home on the 27th ult. Dr. Darby is an indefatigable worker in the cause of peace and international goodwill, and we are very sorry that the time of his visit was not at a more opportune season for the holding of important meetings in the interest of the work. The English Peace Society, whose General Secretary he is, was never more vigorous and aggressive than now. It has the support, moral and financial, of a very large proportion of the peace workers in Great Britain, and spends more than two thousand pounds sterling per year in its various lines of work, most of which is received from private contributions made annually by its members and friends.

Conscription in England. England has so far held out against the conscription system which has now practically converted every able-bodied man on the Continent into a fighting machine. It has been said all along, and by none more loudly than by the military party, that Britain would never tolerate conscription, utterly opposed as it is to all the principles of her civil and religious liberties. But a number of clear-sighted Englishmen have for years plainly seen and declared that conscription is the inevitable last term of the militarism which is so rapidly laying its ruthless hands on all the institutions of the country. The fatal day seems now near at hand. It is reported that what is equivalent to conscription is to be introduced at once into Guernsey. The present militia is declared by the war office to be inefficient. The regular garrison is to be removed therefore, and replaced by a force of thirty thousand men between seventeen and thirty years of age, with a reserve. If the number cannot be secured by volunteering, then the deficiency will be made up by ballot, as it is euphe-

mistically called. The next step will speedily follow, and in less years than the number of one's fingers the entire country will be in the deadly clutches of enforced military service. *Ab uno discé omnes.*

Friends' Protest. The British Friends, who are always on the watch against any encroachment upon civil or religious liberty, have sent to Lord Salisbury and Lord Lansdown the following protest against the bill recently introduced into Parliament to amend the long disused Militia Ballot Act:

"This representative meeting of the Society of Friends views with grave concern the introduction into Parliament of a bill to amend the long disused Militia Ballot Act. It cannot but regard such a measure, taken in conjunction with statements made by members of the government, as preliminary to the enforcement of compulsory military service in this country. The Society of Friends has ever held that war is contrary to the spirit and teaching of Christ; and, believing that His commands are those that claim allegiance above all others, they desire to record their protest against any extension of that militarism which is the increasingly recognized cause of so much evil. They hold that any attempt to enforce compulsory military service is an infringement of the liberty of conscience which we have so long enjoyed, and which is one of the greatest privileges of citizenship in this country. They therefore earnestly desire that no portion of these advantages should be withdrawn, and, further, that the Militia Ballot Act should be repealed and not amended."

South America Fears U. S. There has been a good deal of talk about a federation of the South American republics against the "paramount" pretensions of the United States. Though nothing practical is likely to come of it, the mere fact that the question has been raised is an evidence that national vanity has gone quite far enough in this country. Our business is, not to repel by our superciliousness, but to attract the other nations of this hemisphere, and of the world, too, for that matter, by kindly treatment and by faithful abstinence from all pretensions of dictating to them or lording it over them in any way whatever. This country is great, rich and powerful, but it can never be paramount anywhere, in the European sense of "paramount," without degrading itself and losing its right to be considered the foremost nation of the New World.

Brevities.

... "I charge you to drop every paltry and insignificant thought for any man's success; it is nothing; I am nothing; Judge Douglass is nothing;—but do not destroy that immortal emblem of humanity, the Declaration of Independence."—*Abraham Lincoln.*

. . . Dr. Charles Richet, professor in the University of Paris, and secretary of the French Arbitration Society, has published a study of international arbitration, under the title of "Les Guerres et la Paix." It is a small book of one hundred and ninety pages, in ten chapters, and has twenty-three illustrations. The publishers are Schleicher Frères, Paris.

. . . Sir Julian (now Baron) Pauncefote will return this month to his post as ambassador at Washington. He will retire from the diplomatic service next spring.

. . . Count von Münster, who was president of the German Commission at the Hague Conference, has been made Prince of Derneburg by Emperor William. The German papers think that this honor was conferred not so much because of the Count's services at The Hague as it was as a mark of conciliation toward France, to which von Münster is the German ambassador.

. . . "The Neutrality of the Scandinavian States" is the title of a pamphlet of forty pages by A. Hedin, published at Stockholm. It elaborates a proposition made in the Swedish parliament by Mr. Hedin and a group of Deputies, that the King be invited to open negotiations for the neutralization of Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

. . . The International Peace Bureau at Berne has published in French in pamphlet form for general circulation the "Decisions of the Hague Peace Conference." The brochure covers fifteen pages and contains all the conventions, declarations and expressions of wish.

. . . Mrs. Belva A. Lockwood, Washington, D. C., corresponding secretary of the Universal Peace Union of Philadelphia, sends us a copy of a twenty-page pamphlet recently published by her entitled "Peace and the Outlook: an American View."

. . . The parcels post treaty with Germany, the first one arranged by the United States with any European country, went into effect the first of this month. Packages of merchandise, not to exceed eleven pounds, may now be sent by mail to Germany at the rate of twelve cents per pound or fraction thereof. This will stimulate trade between the two countries and promote friendly relations.

. . . The Coöperative Society of Great Britain, which has recently held its annual meeting, has in fifty years done a business of three hundred million dollars, with a profit of thirty millions.

. . . The new battleship Kearsarge when fully equipped has cost five millions of dollars, enough to endow at four per cent. two hundred and fifty families with an income of \$800 a year for — ever.

. . . The old affection for France in Alsace-Lorraine is said to have cooled very much on account of the injustice and corruption shown in the persecution of Dreyfus.

. . . The Chinese minister at Washington, Wu Ting Fang, has lodged with the State Department a protest against the military order of General Otis excluding Chinese from the Philippines, as contrary to international law, in violation of existing treaties, in disregard of the long maintained friendly relations between the two gov-

ernments, and uncalled for by any military necessity. The result of the protest has been the countermanding of General Otis's order until the subject can be further looked into.

. . . There is now a Peace Committee in St. Petersburg. It has offices at "corner of Kirochnaya and Patyomkinskaya, 48, lodging 42." Mrs. R. N. Shabanova, a well known lady physician, is president.

. . . We are greatly indebted to Mrs. Lucy A. Powers, of Lansingburg, N. Y., for a picture of her father, Rev. Joseph Allen, D. D., one of the original members of the American Peace Society in 1828.

. . . The Philippine Commission, sent out with so much *éclat*, has gone to pieces from inefficiency and internal disagreement, and is coming home piece by piece. The President is to have a sitting with the Commission when the members are drawn in from their various orbits.

. . . The United States, Great Britain and Germany are now engaged in negotiations for the adjustment of the claims arising out of the bombardment in Samoa last summer. The principle to be followed is that private property destroyed in the prosecution of the naval and military operations will be paid for.

. . . The revolution in Venezuela has made rapid progress, and the overthrow of the government seems imminent. There has been hard fighting and many have been killed on both sides.

. . . The enthusiasm already shown and the voting done in the different colonies make it clear that Australian federation will soon be an accomplished fact, and that the continent under one government will have before it a splendid prospect of peaceful and harmonious development, free from the boundary quarrels and irritations which have marked the history of all the other continents. Is civilization centering there?

. . . The *Saturday Evening Post* of Philadelphia will publish in the number for October 7 ex-Speaker Reed's impressions of the procedure of French law courts as illustrated in the Dreyfus case.

. . . Russia is to build a ship canal from the Baltic to the Black Sea, a distance of about one thousand miles. It will cost one hundred million dollars and require ten years for completion.

Correspondence.

Transvaal Crisis.

Editor *ADVOCATE OF PEACE*:

In your September issue the article with above heading is admirable with one exception,—and that of course, if in error, is so because of misapprehension of facts. You say: "Both countries are wrong. The Boers under Krüger, in the attempt to prevent the swallowing up of their country by the greedy, high-handed British gold-seekers, have been exclusive and severe toward foreigners to a degree impossible of justification in these days." This impression has grown out of grossly dishonest misrepresentation of facts. The British press, from which